matters concerning the development and regulation of the industries included in the Schedule to the Act. According to the Act, the Council is to consist of members, not exceeding 30 in number, representing different categories specified in the Act.

The Ministry of Industry has not received any specified proposal from State Governments for their inclusion in the Council. However, in their views on the Sarkaria Commission's Report on Centre-State Relations, many State Governments have supported the recommendation of the Commission to include representatives of the State Governments in the Central Advisory Council. This is being dealt with as a part of the implementation of the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission's Report.

Imposing cess on oil production in Gujarat and Assam

1428. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Oil and Natural Gas Commission and Oil India Limited have gone to courts against the cess imposed on oil production in Gujarat and Assam, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) when the Central Government is unilaterally increasing the administered prices of oil and the revenue is not being shared with the States, what is the justification for the above Central Government bodies to question the right of a State to impose the cess?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) The States of Gujarat and Assam have enacted laws providing for the levy of a Rural Development Cess on lands in the States from which mineral oil (natural gas, condensate and petroleum) is produced. The incidence of this cess is related to the value of the mineral oil produced. ONGC and OIL have challenged the validity of these laws in the Supreme Court on constitutional grounds.

Industrial joint ventures

1429. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any industrial joint ventures are under consideration between India and USSR, Czechoslavakia, Japan and Germany; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Some proposals for foreign collaboration with USSR, Czechoslavakia, Japan and Germany are at various stages of processing. Details of pending applications are not divulged till Government have taken a final decision thereon.

NCBM claims for R&D technology achievements

1430. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Council for Building Materials has claimed R&D and technological achievements and it has a technology package in the areas such as ready mix concrete, low cost housing fly ash bricks and coloured clinker;

(b) if so, whether any industrial enterprises were set up using NCB technology in the above areas and are supplying products to the public; and

(c) if so, what are the details of production and royalty earned by NCB through supply of these technologies?